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No. 26

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, February 14, 2014, at 2 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, to whom we must give an account for all our powers and privileges, guide the Members of this body so that they will be faithful stewards of Your will. Open their minds and hearts to know and do Your bidding. Teach them to rely on Your strength and to serve You with honor. Lord, help them to discover in their daily work the joy of a partnership with You. As they learn to find delight in Your presence, plant within the soil of their hearts a desire to glorify You. May they rest and wait patiently for You, the author and finisher of their faith, embracing Your precepts and walking in Your path.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY)

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, we will be in a period of morning business until 11 o'clock this morning. Republicans will control the first half and Democrats the final half.

At 11 a.m. this morning the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar Nos. 525, 595, 527, and 529. These are all extremely important nominations. At 11:30 this morning there will be up to four rollcall votes on the confirmation of these nominations.

We also hope to consider the debt limit legislation, military retirement

pay, and, hopefully, additional nominations today.

RESTORING EARNED PENSIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as I just mentioned, today we hope we can act on two vital pieces of legislation. On this side of the aisle, as we say, we are ready to move. We want to move to a measure to restore earned retirement pay to our Nation's heroes—retirees of the U.S. armed services. Dozens of major veterans organizations have written us in support of this legislation which was passed by the House of Representatives yesterday.

I commend the sponsors of the Senate bill to restore veterans' pensions—Senators PRYOR, SHAHEEN, HAGAN, and BEGICH, among others—forcing Republicans in the House and the Senate to take this issue very seriously and take it seriously now. Without their leadership we would never have reached a compromise that protects our Nation's heroic veterans and reached it so quickly. The Senate's unanimous vote on Monday to move forward with the bill to restore veterans' pensions forced the House to understand that we are serious about this and secured a resolution that protects veterans.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is encouraging that some of my Republican colleagues seem to be regaining their grip on sanity this week. Republicans have shown a willingness to compromise to restore veterans' hard-

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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